

These are the comments I wish to submit in relation to the Gate Burton Solar Development site.

- The site is planned to be the largest in the UK, affecting approx. 10000 acres of open rural landscape. That the majority of it is used to grow food.
- According to DEFRA, all the land affected is good quality agricultural land, the majority being Grade 3a. With quality agricultural land such as this swiftly decreasing and with this site potentially being the largest in the UK, we object to such a large agricultural area being transformed in one location.
- The substation sites have not been made clear in relation to size, staffing and contingency should anything go wrong.
- Lithium-ion batteries are a very new, 'untested and potentially very hazardous technology'. There have been fires and explosions all over the world caused by Lithium-ion batteries. Our small local fire service will not have the facilities to deal with fires of this kind on this scale.
- The batteries will not be able to store the required amount of electricity that will impact the usage over the winter months when demand is at its highest. With this in mind, the environmental effects of mining the ingredients for these batteries is detrimental to climate change and does not outweigh the need for solar energy.
- How long do the developers estimate the construction period in total to last, this includes preparing the site for development and the building the scheme itself? During this time how many additional HGV vehicles per day are expected, along with light goods vehicles, using new and existing networks of local lanes, some of which are not fit for HGV's, between 7am-7pm Monday-Saturday?
- The scheme will result in significant adverse landscape effects.
- A development of this size, (combined) contradicts various environmental and food security papers and reports. Ignoring the recommendations from experts in their field.
- Off shore wind turbine is a much more "proven" way of efficiently producing electricity for the UK. Evidence of solar farms impact on biodiversity remains limited and is only 11-15% efficient.
- Food security must be a priority for the UK. The carbon footprint on importing 40 % of the countries food is notable and the majority of crops grown within these areas are essential to the bio diversity of the area and the reduction of CO2.
- Solar farms will not continue to provide the same amount of jobs these farming areas do currently. They will not create an economic benefit to the already hard-pressed communities affected.
- Solar farms make it impossible for local authorities to commit to a viable local nature recovery strategy which aims to do the complete opposite to what would happen in the areas making unstable eco systems.
- Health and wellbeing of residents is a priority for our Local Authority, the landscape, noise, increase in traffic, bridle and footpath disruption will have an adverse effect not to mention the negative impact on birds, insects, bats and agricultural diversity.
- In 2021 there was 250,000 hectares of south facing commercial roof space = 50% of UK's electricity. 17 million homes in the UK only 6% have PV's and there are 7 million hectares of brownfield sites or grade 4 & 5 land all better for solar placement. This should be a priority for using roofs rather than land good for growing food and that nurtures communities health and wellbeing.
- Further research into electromagnetic sensitivity is required before large scale plans are agreed. Along with a full Solar fire strategy owing to the small fire services that are in our area.
- This is a knee jerk reaction that has not been thought out properly in the absence of a National land use strategy. Further research is coming apparent that this is not the most effective "Green Strategy".
- The new amendments by this company to acquire land for the cable corridor ruins an important access road to the river Trent that is used for recreation such as walking and horse riding. This will be another part of the development that encroaches on wildlife. The area is great for bird and wildlife watching with hedgerows, woodland and badger setts. This further highlights the Developers unprofessional approach to the planning process and regard to rural communities.